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GDR HEAVY INDUSTRY TOPS PLAN DURING FIRST HALF OF 1951

The State Planning Commission of the German Democratic Republic reports that the plan for gross industrial production during the first half of 1951 has been fulfilled 102.5 percent by the machine-building, heavy, and light industries. This constitutes an increase of 32 percent over the first half of 1950.

Heavy industry fulfilled its quota by 105.2 percent, a rise of 27.3 percent over the comparable period in 1950. Heavy industry also made great strides toward improving the quality of its output.

The various branches of heavy industry fulfilled the plan by the following percentages: metallurgical, 109.2; chemical, 105.4; coal, 104.1; building materials, 106; building industry, 151. Only the power plants did not fulfill their assigned quotas.

The following achievements by work collectives are exemplary:

The workers' and engineers' collectives at the Hennigsdorf Metallurgical Plant achieved a yield of 3.26 tons of steel per square meter of Martin furnace. They also introduced the rolling of dynamo sheet place bars, instituted mass production of spring steel, and undertook the rolling of electrode wire and other shapes from high-grade steel.

The collective at the Riesa Steel Mills attained a yield of 3.23 tons of steel per square meter of Martin furnace. Production of seamless welded pipe has increased considerably and the rolling of beams, girders, and angle-irons was started on the section rolling mills.

The Olbernhau plant has been able to produce dynamo sheet and has started rolling transformer sheet.

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However, despite the generally satisfactory production, it would be a mistake to overlook serious deficiencies which exist in a number of plants, among them several large ones.

The Brandenburg Steel and Rolling Mill, for example, has systematically failed to fulfill its steel production plan. During the initial period of operation, the plant management and the Main Administration for Metallurgy blamed the poor work on the inexperience of the workers and on materials shortages. Sufficient time has elapsed to remedy these defects, but nothing has been done about them. The plant still suffers from interruptions, poor work organization, weak production techniques, bottlenecks in the charging of furnaces and in the casting channels, etc.

The commission appointed by Minister Fritz Selb to investigate the reason for the low quality of steel in the Brandenburg Steel Mill reported that, as a result of inadequate equipment, the charging of the Martin furnaces takes 12-15 hours instead of 6-7. Too few manganese carriers are employed in charging furnaces. The metal produced has insufficient hot-hardness.

There are serious deficiencies on the pouring platforms. The painting of the ingot molds takes place on a hearth plate with the result that bubbles are formed within the ingot mold and spatters occur along the sides. The ingot molds contain impurities, and defective molds are not sorted out. This results in the production of poor-quality steel. Poor discipline and inadequate technical supervision contribute to the low productivity of the Brandenburg Steel Mill's Martin furnaces, whose output per square meter is only slightly more than half that of the Hennigsdorf and Riesa Mills.

The plant is understaffed and its personnel structure is not in proper balance. The men assigned to checking the quality of the metal are frequently unfamiliar with such work.

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